

Presentation Packs

FOR some years now I have been buying presentation packs which are issued by the Post Office. I notice that these are listed in Gibbons' *Collect British Stamps*, and that some of these are fetching quite high prices, particularly when the text used is in another language, such as German. This is all very gratifying, especially when one owns a series of these packs. So one would think I had nothing to grouse about; but I have. I keep the stamps within the original black mount, and use this to display the stamps in a loose-leaf album. Opposite, I use a double-sided transparent sleeve to house the folded card, containing information. However, I always unfold the card so the information can be seen and read on both sides. Unfortunately, the Post Office has so designed the card that when opened out, some of the text is upside-down in relation to the rest. I can see no good reason for this. It is perfectly possible to design the card so that it folds to hold the stamps and the mount, and so that when unfolded, all the text is the right way up. Am I alone in this complaint, or are there others who have so far borne this irritating detail in silence?

Harrow

R. T. WATTS

"HIDDEN DATES" OF CANADA

Reference Alan Sterckx' interesting article entitled "Behind the Scenes", (10th February), a Royal Visit commemorative stamp was issued by Canada in 1957. Based on a portrait of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh by Karsh of Ottawa, the stamp had "1957" hidden in the bottom left corner. It is true that the subsequent Royal Visit Stamp, issued in 1959 and featuring Annigoni's portrait of The Queen, also had "1957" in a similar position. Presumably both designs were prepared in 1957; Karsh's being given preference and the other held over for the next visit.

Regarding the Churchill commemorative, close examination of the knuckles of the right hand, as opposed to the wrist, will reveal the date "1965". Certainly this is one of the hardest hidden dates to find.

Swanage

L. de F. C. LUCAS

STAMPEX 1983

I have never been to a stamp exhibition before, although I have been collecting stamps for the last 15 years. As a result of pressure from my two small sons, who are embryo stamp collectors, I attended STAMPEX on the opening day. All three of us arrived home several hours later, very tired and very happy. The boys had plastic bags full of goodies (much of it free, of course), and I was able to find some Swiss material which I had been looking for since I began collecting. It was all very entertaining and what's more, everyone we spoke to on the various stands was helpful and pleasant. I shall go again next year!

Maldon

HENRY KIRBY

Opinions expressed in correspondence are not necessarily endorsed by the editor.

'Quoting You'

Letters to the Editor

REPRODUCTION ESSAYS

Thank you for the very nice reproductions of British essays. I have always been on the look-out for something like this. I notice that the first batch was printed in various colours, but can find no record of their having been printed in colour originally. If so, can you tell me what these colours were?

Kidderminster

J. T. COX

I like the stamp essays which you are printing in STAMP COLLECTING. As a life-long G.B. collector, I think they make an interesting sideline collection, and look great in my own album. Will you be producing a special album in which to keep the essays?

Truro

ROBERT D. BOURNE

Replies to both Mr Cox and Mr Bourne, the answers are (1) that the essays so far used were produced only in black originally. We have chosen some new colours for the reproductions. (2) No special album has been prepared, but there are several good blank albums available. Harris Publications Ltd., of 42 Maiden Lane, Strand, London, W.C.2 have lists, and can supply. ED.

WHITE RUSSIAN ISSUES

Looking through some old albums recently, I came across a stamp inscribed in a language which looks like Russian, with a value in, I think, roubles. I enclose a photostat of the stamp, which is in mint condition. Is this some



sort of bogus issue, or is it genuine? If so, can anyone tell me its country of origin?

Gateshead-on-Tyne

F. W. LYLE

The stamp is in fact one of a series issued in 1920 for a force of White Russians commanded by General

Bulak-Balakovich. Both imperforate and perforated specimens are known, there being five values: 5, 10, 15 and 50 kopecks, and 1 rouble. They are not known in unused condition, and were probably never used for postage. ED.

G.B. STATIONERY PERFINS

Mr Ian McQueen's "Philately for Fun" is invariably interesting, but, as a G.B. Perfins collector, the article in the current issue has tempted me to go through my collection seeking other examples on items of British stationery.

For the three stationery types mentioned by Mr McQueen, envelopes, post cards and wrappers, I found the following: — Envelopes, A & N/C.S.L. (A 421A) on issues of Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and King George V: post cards, D/R & Co (D 416) and J Co/Ld (unlisted) on issues of Queen Victoria, and W C/ & Co (W 113.3) on King Edward VII: Wrappers, Dr J/Co (D 421) and Un/Co (U 142.1) on issues of Queen Victoria, CB/ & Co (C 65.4) DLR (D 292.6), R & Co/Ltd (R 109), WSB (W.671) and WSS/Co (707) on King Edward VII and B.R (B 611) and FR (unlisted) on those of King George V.

Like Mr McQueen, I found no lettercards, but I do have four Registration envelopes with the Registration stamps perfinned, two of QV issues, one having A & N/C.S.L and the other B & S (B 643.1A) and two KE VII, both with Dr J/ & Co, the second copy coming from the recent Stampex.

For the foregoing bracketed items, see The Perfins of Great Britain, A Catalog-Album, compiled and edited by Robert McKee and Basil Tomkins, Published by Harvey Tilley.

Oakham, Leics.

Dr R. W. POWELL

"TYPOGRAPHED" STAMPS

I have noticed that stamp catalogues often refer to stamps as having been "typographed", but in your columns you refer to the printing process as "letterpress". Why is this?

Norwich.

GEORGE MANNERS

We think that the term "letterpress" is the more common and accurate one. ED.